seen. The well is still to be completed and tested.

(c) The question of commencement of oil production does not arise at this stage. Commencement of commercial production of natural gas will depend upon the likely investments for utilisation of such gas.

Hiring of private helicopters by CIL

7. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Coal India Limited have hired private helicopters for their officers to visit Western Coalfield areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that these areas are not approachable by car;

(c) since when the helicopters have been put to use together with fare per hour or per day and who are the officers authorised to use these helicopters;

(d) what is the daily and monthly expenditure incurred on hiring these helicopters; and

(e) what is the total number of helipads constructed for the purpose and the expenditure incurred on their construction?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Coal India has not hired any private helicopter for their officers to visit Western Coalfield areas. However, Coal India has hired one helicopter from M|s. Pawan Hans Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking, and has stationed it at Nagpur.

(b) The areas are approachable by car also, but to reach many of the mines and other installations by car will take considerable time.

(c) The helicopter has been hired by CIL since 15-4-1988. The charges for hire are as under:—

	Monthly fixed charges	Hourly charges
From 15-4-88	Rs. 8,73,100/-	Rs. 6,555/-
From 15-4-89	Rs. 7,98,229/-	Rs. 12,742/-

Normally, the Chairman and Directors of CIL, CMDs and Directors of Subsidiary Companies and visiting dignitaries are authorised to use the helicopter. It is also used for meeting emergencies.

(d) Actual expenditure incurred on hiring Pawan Hans helicopter is as under:—

1988:89 – Rs. 1,17,87,946/-
1989-90 – Rs. 1,54,27,100/-

(e) Total number of helipads constructed in WCL is 9.

A sum of Rs. 4,93,142|- has been incurred on construction of these helipads.

Electrification of villages in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

8. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu which have not so far been electrified;

(b) whether the targets fixed in these States during the last two years have been achieved; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) As per available information, at the end of February, 1990, 52 and 18 villages remain to be electrified in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu respectively.

(b) The targets fixed in these two states during the last two years have been achieved.

(c) Does not arise.

Suspension of further purchase of Airbus A-320 Aircraft

9. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: